

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 14067 030907Z

20

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 IO-13 /084 W

----- 104919

P R 030828Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2935

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

FBIS OKINAWA

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 14067

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR PINR CH

SUBJECT: NPC APPOINTS NEW FOREIGN MINISTER--OTHER PROBLEMS STILL
NOT SETTLED

REF: HONG KONG 13956

SUMMARY: CHINA'S NPC CONCLUDED WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW
FOREIGN MINISTER WHICH DID NOT, HOWEVER, SIGNAL A CHANGE IN
PRC FOREIGN POLICY. IT OTHERWISE PROVIDED ONLY LIMITED INSIGHT
INTO PEKING'S POLICY AND PERSONNEL-REPLACEMENT PLANS, RAISING
DOUBTS ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR BUILDING A CONSENSUS AMONG THE
LEADERSHIP. ACTIONS TAKEN HEWED CLOSELY TO CONSTITUTIONAL
AUTHORITY GIVEN TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE, THUS EMPHASIZING
THE HUA REGIME'S CONCERN WITH "LEGITIMIZING" ITS SUCCESSOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HONG K 14067 030907Z

STATUS. THE SESSION PROVIDED MOSTLY FORM AND IMAGE-BUILDING

AND THERE WAS LITTLE INDICATION THAT THE REGIME HAS COME TO GRIPS WITH CRUCIAL INTERNAL ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

1. CHINA'S NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS (NPC) STANDING COMMITTEE SESSION CLOSED DECEMBER 2 AFTER THREE DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH ONLY ONE DECISION ANNOUNCED AS COMPLETE -- REPLACEMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA BY FORMER AMBASSADOR-TO-THE-UN, HUANG HUA. THE APPOINTMENT OF THE 63-YEAR OLD HUANG SEEMS CONSISTENT WITH CURRENT REGIME EFFORTS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT CHINESE FOREIGN POLICIES IN THE POST-MAO, POST-"GANG OF FOUR" PERIOD REMAIN UNCHANGED. IN ADDITION TO SIGNALLING TO AN INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE THAT KEY PERSONNEL CHANGES NEED NOT IMPLY POLICY CHANGES, THE HUANG APPOINTMENT PLACES THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN THE HANDS OF A HIGHLY REGARDED DIPLOMAT LONG ASSOCIATED WITH SINO-U.S. RELATIONS AT KEY PERIODS, INCLUDING THE MARSHALL MISSION, THE PANMUNJOM TALKS, AND DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

2. ANOTHER NPC ANNOUNCEMENT, THE DECISION TO ELEVATE TENG YING-CHAO TO THE POST OF STANDING COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN, INDICATED THIS DECISION REQUIRED APPROVAL BY A FULL NPC SESSION. WHILE OTHER "APPOINTMENTS AND REMOVALS" WERE PROPOSED BY VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN -- ON PREMIER HUA'S RECOMMENDATION -- NONE OF THESE CHANGES IN THE STATE LINEUP WERE ANNOUNCED. THE SPEECHES WHICH WERE REPORTED IN THE NCNA RELEASE ON THE SESSION GAVE NO INDICATION OF ANY SHIFTS IN POLICY LINE BUT WERE NOTABLE FOR THE LACK OF QUOTATIONS FROM CHAIRMAN MAO.

3. WE SUSPECT THAT THE NPC ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE LIMITED BECAUSE THE REGIME IS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF CARRYING OUT THE LEGAL FORMULAE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF ITS ALREADY PURGED LEADERSHIP FIGURES. IN THIS RESPECT, THE DECISION TO ANNOUNCE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CHANGE MAY BE UNIQUE BECAUSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES ATTACHED TO THE POST. REPLACEMENT OF OTHERS OBVIOUSLY ALSO EVENTUALLY WILL BE REVEALED, BUT MORE INTIMATELY INVOLVED "SUPPORTERS" OF THE "GANG OF FOUR" MAY HAVE TO UNDERGO FORMAL AND PERHAPS EVEN PUBLIC CONDEMNATION BEFORE THEIR DISMISSALS ARE OFFICIALLY CONCLUDED. THUS, THE REPLACEMENTS FOR OTHER STATE POSITIONS -- INCLUDING PREMIER, VICE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HONG K 14067 030907Z

PREMIER, NPC CHAIRMAN, AND OTHER MINISTERIAL POSTS -- COULD AWAIT THE CONVENING OF A FULL NPC SESSION, A SESSION ALREADY ADVERTISED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT RECOMMENDING TENG YING-CHAO'S ELEVATION.
CROSS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HONGK14067
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760447-0915
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761276/aaaacnmf.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 HONG KONG 13956
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NPC APPOINTS NEW FOREIGN MINISTER--OTHER PROBLEMS STILL NOT SETTLED
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PINR, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006